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Statement submitted by Christian Blind Mission International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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Statement

Christian Blind Mission International is an international disability and development organization working to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the most disadvantaged communities of the world.

Christian Blind Mission International is part of the International Disability and Development Consortium aiming to promote inclusive development. Inclusive development is about respecting the full human rights of every person, acknowledging diversity, eradicating poverty and ensuring that all people are fully included and can actively participate in development processes and activities regardless of age, gender, disability, state of health, ethnic origin or any other characteristic.

The Millennium Development Goals, the international benchmarks for alleviating poverty through global progress in vital areas such as education, health and gender equality, make no mention of persons with disabilities.

The recently adopted General Assembly resolution on aligning the Millennium Development Goals towards disability issues in which the Assembly urges Governments and Member States to explicitly include disability issues and persons with disabilities in national plans and tools designed to contribute to the full realization of the Goals, is undoubtedly a good step. But in the context of the high-level plenary meeting to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, which will be held in September 2010, it will take both political will and concrete actions to make progress towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the plans to achieve the Goals by 2015. More than 80 representatives of disabled people's organizations, development non-governmental organizations, international organizations and Governments from 24 countries came together to discuss the inclusion of people with disabilities in the context of the Millennium Development Goals at Senec, Bratislava, Slovakia, on 14 and 15 May 2007. This International Disability and Development Consortium conference concluded with clear recommendations to various stakeholders at all levels in the development arena:

- Ensure that the Millennium Development Goal framework incorporates and actively promotes adherence to and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The United Nations regional commissions must align their positions and reporting to the terms of the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Gather more accurate and reliable data on the situation of persons with disabilities living in the poorest communities and include disabled people's organizations in this
- Systematically include a disability perspective and gather information on the status of persons with disabilities in all Millennium Development Goals country analyses
- Invest in global partnerships to promote inclusive development; poverty and exclusion of persons with disabilities are a global phenomenon and a global challenge

- North-South cooperation is required to address these problems; respect the terms of article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on international cooperation, and promote disability as a cross-cutting issue in all development programmes
- Improve communication on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities and on their representative organizations and demystify the language behind the Goals
- Support awareness-raising activities for disability inclusion in development cooperation and poverty reduction
- Build the capacity of non-governmental organizations or disability inclusion, empower persons with disabilities in developing countries, invest in global partnerships of disabled people's organizations.